

SISTER URSULA SIEKMANN, O.S.F. (M. Norbertine) 705

Born: March 31, 1913 in East St Louis, IL
Parents: Casper and Louise (Eversmann) Siekmann
Postulancy: September 8, 1933
Novitiate: August 12, 1934
First Profession: August 12, 1936
Final Profession: August 12, 1939
Died: Sunday, August 16, 1992 at 7:30 a.m. at St. Francis Convent, Joliet



Ministry:

1936 - 1941 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grades 2 - 6
1941 - 1945 Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL, Grades 6,7
1945 - 1946 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 8
1946 - 1948 Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1948 - 1951 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grades 6,7
1951 - 1953 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1953 - 1954 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 5,6
1954 - 1955 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 7
1955 - 1957 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grades 7,8
1957 - 1959 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8
1959 - 1960 Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1960 - 1966 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grade 8, Principal
1966 - 1968 Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1968 - 1969 St. Rita, Aurora, IL, Grade 8
1969 - 1971 St. Raphael, Naperville, IL, Grade 6
1971 - 1974 Holy Family, Joliet, IL, Grades 3 - 6
1974 - 1986 St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grades 4, 5
1986 - 1990 ✓ St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Bookstore clerk,
Teacher Aid, Supervisor
1990 - 1992 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Literacy teacher

Wake: Tuesday, August 18, 1992 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Mass of Christian Burial: Tuesday, August 18, 1992 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday, August 19, at 9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Survived by her sisters-in-law: Peg Siekmann, Rose Schroll,
and nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Ursula Margaret Siekmann was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, to Casper and Louise Siekmann on March 31, 1913 and was baptized at St. Philip the Apostle Church on April 6, 1913. Ursula learned the basics of community living in her family home with five sisters and seven brothers. In 1984, Ursula described the influence her parents had had on her life, saying, "They always gave good example and brought all of us up to be honest and law-abiding citizens. We always lived in a Christian atmosphere. We all shared in the chores to make our house a home."

Another influential person in Ursula's life was the assistant pastor, Rev. Joseph LeGrand, who helped her discern her vocational choice to join the Franciscans in Joliet, where Ursula became a Postulant on September 8, 1933.

Requesting to enter the Novitiate, in 1934, Miss Ursula Siekmann wrote, "I chose a Community in which I knew no one, and I chose this one just from hearing about it...and as far as I can see, I will never regret the day I entered St. Francis Convent....I want to thank the Community and all its members for all the benefits I have received and for the kindness and politeness and charity of the good nuns..." Sister Norbertine, as she was then called, began her teaching ministry at St. John's Parish in Joliet. Her principals spoke highly of her excellence as a teacher. Serving as a principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe in South Chicago was a highlight of Sister Norbertine's educational career. She reflected on those years, saying, "It was very rewarding some twenty years later to return for a reunion and meet these fine young adults, to see how well they were doing as dentists, doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. They were so grateful for everything that was done for them."

After completing her ministry of teaching in parish schools at the Cathedral of St. Raymond school in Joliet, in 1986, Sister Ursula continued in various supportive services while residing at the Congregation Motherhouse. Her Golden Jubilee Celebration was a special experience during those years.

Earlier this summer, Sister Ursula was hospitalized for heart problems, but recuperated at OLA and returned to the Motherhouse to be with her Sisters there. The day after the joyful celebration of Sister Maria Bui's final profession, Sister Ursula was preparing to go to Sunday Liturgy when she died suddenly, and the Lord took her to sing God's praises forever in heaven.

Sister Ursula, we are grateful for the energetic example you have given us in living life and in serving others. We ask you to continue to pray for us and to let the ministry and the memory of your life urge us on to further good. May you be reunited once again with your parents, Casper and Louise, with your brothers, Casper, Ray, Leo, Harold, Ernie, Norbert and Justin, and your sisters, Louise, Mary, Veronica, Marcella (Sister Irenaeus, SSND) and Regina, and all your family members. May your voice be joined with that of all your Franciscan Sisters in heaven singing God's praises forever. Amen. Alleluia.

